

REMARKS

The examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search. In this reply, no claims have been amended, added, or cancelled.

The Office Action Summary of the final Office Action and page 2 of the final Office Action indicated that Claims 1, 3-11, 26, and 27 are pending in the application. However, in the response filed on February 7, 2006, Claims 9 and 25 were cancelled and Claims 28-38 were added. Therefore, Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, and 26-38 are pending in the application.

Each issue raised in the final Office Action mailed May 5, 2006 is addressed hereinafter.

I. ISSUES RELATING TO PRIOR ART

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, and 25-30, 32-35, 37, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,667,971 B1 issued to Grob et al. ("Grob"). The rejection is respectfully traversed. (Claims 9 and 25 were canceled previously. Therefore the rejection is moot as to those claims.)

Claims 8, 31, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Grob and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,782,422 B1 issued to Bahl et al. ("Bahl"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. CLAIMS 1 AND 26-28

An anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 is overcome by a showing that the applicant's claims include at least one feature that is not shown, described or taught in the cited prior art reference, explicitly or by inherency. Grob does not teach or suggest all features of present Claim 1.

Present Claim 1 recites:

A method of assigning a network address to a host based on authentication for a physical connection between the host and an intermediate device, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

**receiving**, at a router hosting an authenticator process for the host, from a first server that provides authentication and authorization, **in response to a request for authentication for the physical connection, first data indicating at least some of authentication and authorization information**;

receiving, at a DHCP relay agent process of the router, from the host, a DHCP discovery message for discovering a logical network address for the host;

**generating at the DHCP relay agent process a second message based on the DHCP discovery message and the first data**; and

sending the second message from the DHCP relay agent process to a DHCP server that provides the logical network address for the host;

wherein generating the second message further comprises sending a **third message**, from the authenticator process to the relay agent process, **that contains at least some of the authentication and authorization information** based on the first data.  
(emphasis added)

For example, the Office Action contends that the first step of Claim 1, “receiving...in response to a request for authentication ..., first data indicating at least some of authentication and authorization information” is found in Grob at col. 13, lines 11-46. However, that portion of Grob merely describes a protocol stack that is established for a session in a high speed wireless packet data communications system (HDR). That portion has no express or implicit teaching of **authentication**, much less any kind of **request for authentication** or any kind of **authentication or authorization information**. Thus, that portion of Grob cannot even teach that the first data is received “at a router hosting an **authenticator process** for the host”. The rationale of the Office Action is unsupported because the cited portion of the reference does not meet the terms of the claim.

The Office Action further contends that Grob shows “generating...a second message based on the DHCP discovery message and the first data” at col. 20, lines 6-39. This is incorrect. That portion of Grob merely describes how an IP address is retrieved for a user (see FIG. 15A and FIG. B of Grob). If a static IP address exists for the user, then RADIUS server 142A of Grob retrieves the static IP address (col. 20, lines 11-12). If a static IP address does not exist for

the user, then an access point 120 communicates with DHCP server 142C for an assignment of an IP address (col. 20, lines 12-14). The rest of this portion of Grob corresponds to FIG. 15B and is a flow diagram that illustrates an IP assignment process. The last paragraph of this portion states,

[I]f the user's profile indicates that a static IP address has not been assigned, the PDSN communicates with the DHCP server and requests an IP address to be assigned to the user, at step 1532. The DHCP server then assigns an IP address and sends it to the PDSN, at step 1534. This assigned IP address may be static or may be leased as a temporary IP address. The PDSN renews the IP address lease as long as the session remains active. The PDSN then forwards to the access terminal 110 either the static IP address sent by the RADIUS server or the assigned IP address sent by the DHCP server, at step 1536. The user may maintain the IP address as long as it is served by a radio network, which has connectivity to the PDSN assigning the IP address.

(col. 20, lines 26-39)

The Office Action apparently correlates the DHCP relay agent process of Claim 1 with the PDSN of Grob. However, a message **based on a DHCP discovery message and first data** (that indicates authentication and authorization information), as recited in Claim 1, **is not generated** at the PDSN of Grob. In fact, there is no teaching or suggestion in all of Grob that a message is generated **based on a DHCP discovery message and** the first data.

The Office Action further contends that Grob shows “wherein generating the second message further comprises sending a third message, from the authenticator process to the relay agent process, that contains at least some of the authentication and authorization information based on the first data” at col. 20, line 65 to col. 21, line 61. This is incorrect. In order for Grob to read on this feature of Claim 1, the PDSN (i.e. the alleged DHCP relay agent) would have to receive authentication and authorization information. Again, however, this portion of Grob does not teach or suggest anything about authentication, much less that the PDSN receives authentication and authentication information.

The three different references cited in the three Office Actions and the rationales specified therein indicate that Applicants' approach may be unclear. Authentication and authorization checks are performed, and then information indicating a successful authentication and authorization is handed off to a DHCP server that assigns an address. In this approach, the DHCP server does not have to **re-perform** authentication and authorization.

Claim 1 recites that a router hosting an authenticator process for the host receives, from a first server that provides authentication and authorization, in response to a request for authentication for the physical connection, first data indicating at least some of authentication and authorization information. Thus, host authentication and authorization has occurred. A DHCP relay agent process of the router receives a DHCP discovery message from the host for discovering a logical network address for the host. The DHCP relay agent generates a second message based on the DHCP discovery message and the first data. The DHCP relay agent process sends the second message to a DHCP server that provides the logical network address for the host. Generating the second message further comprises sending a third message, from the authenticator process to the DHCP relay agent process, that contains at least some of the authentication and authorization information based on the first data. Providing that information relieves the DHCP server from having to re-authenticate the user as a condition for assigning an address.

These features distinguish Grob, which has no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding generating a message based on a DHCP discovery message **and** first data (that indicates authentication and authorization information). Indeed, nothing in the cited portions of Grob teach authentication of any kind.

Each of the features discussed above for Claim 1 is present in all independent Claims 26-28. Therefore, Claims 26-28 are patentable for at least those reasons that Claim 1 is patentable. Reconsideration of Claims 26-28 is respectfully requested.

Each of the features discussed above for Claim 1 is present, by dependency, in Claims 3-8, 10-11, and 29-38. Because each of the dependant claims include the limitations of claims upon which they depend, the dependant claims are patentable for at least those reasons the claims upon which the dependant claims depend are patentable. Reconsideration of Claims 1, 3-7, 10-11, and 26-27 is respectfully requested.

B. CLAIMS 8, 31, AND 36 — GROB IN VIEW OF BAHL

Claim stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Grob in view of Bahl. Each of the features discussed above for Claim 1 is present, by dependency, in Claim 8. Because dependant Claim 8, 31, and 36 includes the limitations of Claim 1, Claims 8, 31, and 36 is patentable for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claims 1, 26, and 27. Further, Bahl does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Grob. Reconsideration of Claims 8, 31, and 36 is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone regarding any issue that would advance examination of the present application.

No check for applicable additional claim fees is enclosed herewith, but the enclosed transmittal authorizes a deposit account charge for such applicable fees. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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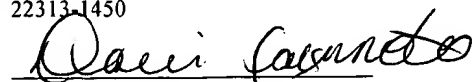
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on June 8, 2006

by

  
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